

The Open Shop Fight

The National Chamber of Commerce has completed its referendum on the question of the "open shop"; the decision of its members going almost unanimously in favor. This national organization of labor skimmers means to wage aggressive war on organized labor all over the country. In many cities the fight is already on, developing on a wide scale and increasing in bitterness.

Here in Cleveland the tailors and pattern-makers are already in the midst of it. A half-page advertisement of the merchant tailors announces their determination to stand for "Industrial Freedom and the open shop." This means freedom for the bosses to close the shop to union men and fill it with scabs and traitors; freedom to push wages down below the living line, lengthen the working day and increase the speed; freedom to determine the conditions of the workers' lives while denying them any voice or representation.

If we are not to be riveted to a system of industrial servitude more hideous, even, than we suffer under today, we must fight back with all our power. The bosses have the advantage at the start because they are organized in a solid body. We must organize in the same manner if we want to win.

Get Together, Boys!

There is lots of sentiment among the more progressive workers for industrial unionism, and lots of talk about it, but we don't see anything yet that looks like One Big Union.

The I. W. W. says it's the One Big Union. So does the W. I. I. U. Independent industrial unions are springing up all around—in some cases two or three in the same industry—and they say they're the One Big Union.

And now the One Big Union of Canada is coming down to enter the field. It is the latest, as far as we know. But there may be others we haven't heard about yet.

Now, if we could put them all together into one organization, and swing in those fighting unions still in the A. F. of L. who are ready to line up as soon as they see something that looks like business, we would have a good start toward the real One Big Union. As we see it, this is what will have to take place sooner or later. The

rank and file of all these organizations would welcome such a move without a doubt.

The name of the One Big Union doesn't make any difference. And it doesn't matter much who the officials are, if the shop committee system and other safeguards are incorporated so as to put actual control into the hands of the rank and file.

There was a time when the I. W. W. men took the lead in every movement for the welfare of the workers. Why don't they take the lead in this?

The Picket Line

PRINTERS working on a Minneapolis paper refused to set matter for an advertisement advocating the open shop. This is a way of saying: "I refuse to load the gun you are going to shoot me with."

THE very fact that the employers are banding solidly together to put over the open shop is proof enough to intelligent workers that it is no good for them.

HERE is a safe motto for the labor movement: "Find out what the bosses want and then don't let them have it."

LABOR DAY:—A special day set apart by law for the purpose of permitting union men to come together in public parks to listen to politicians tell them how much they have done to them in the past and what they are going to do to them in the future.

DON'T throw your vote away. Save it for the workers' council.

WHEN the hard coal miners protested against the 17 per cent wage award, Wilson indignantly asked if they meant it for a "challenge." Well, the mines are tied up, the "leaders" are repudiated and Wilson and his wage commission disregarded. So it seems they really meant it for a "challenge".

A news paper headline says: "Harding works hard on Labor Day speech." That's about as near to "work" and "labor" as he and his kind ever get.